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(54) PRODUCTION OF ION EXCHANGER

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To obtain an ion exchanger whose ionic permeability, especially, permselectivity among ions of the same charges can be varied, by polymerizing an oxidatively polymerizable monomer in an ion exchanger containing an oxidizing agent.

CONSTITUTION: An exidatively polymerizable monomer is polymerized in an ion exchanger containing an exidizing agent. As the ion exchanges, not only organic ion exchangers but also inorganic ion exchangers themselves such as zirconium phosphate and those

formed by molding these inorganic ion exchangers by application of pressure and heat with the aid of a suitable organic or inorganic binder can be used. Examples of said oxidizing agents include peroxides such as H2O2 and (C6H5CO) and (C6H5CO)2O2, metal salts such as FeCl3 and CuSO4, peroxy acids (salts) such as Na₂S₂O₈ and Na₂SO₅ and oxy-acid salts such as NaClO and NaBrO. Examples of the oxidatively polymerizable monomers which can be particularly desirably used include pyrrole, indole, azulene, thiophene, furan and their derivatives.

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匈発明の名称 イオン交換体の製造方法

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明 細 養

1. 発明の名称

イオン交換体の製造方法

2. 特許請求の範囲

- 1) 酸化剤を含有するイオン交換体中で酸化重 合可能な単量体の重合させることを特徴とするイ オン交換体の製造方法。
- 3. 発明の詳細な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

本発明は酸化剤を含有するイオン交換体中で酸 化重合可能な単量体を重合させるイオン交換体の 製造方法に関する。

(従来技術および問題点)

従来、イオン交換膜の機能としてイオン選択透過性を向上させたり、低下せしめたり、同符号イオン間の選択透過性を変えるために、種々の方法が試みられてきた。さらにイオン交換膜に新しい機能を賦与するための種々の試みとして、重合可能なピニル単盤体を陽イオン交換膜中に含度重合させる方法が行われ、塩

(問題点を解決するための手段)

本発明者らは上記に窓み、広く一般にイオンジタ換体のマトリックス中に別ポリマーの交換体はまることによって換体に新しい機能にを変え、また酸イオン交換体に新したが出来ないか組々検討を重ねた。とはおかないかの誘導体などの設済体のがイオン交換体に対して親和性がよく、且つ酸化反応にはかの特性があるとし、酸イオン交換体の特性があるというにはなるというにはないないではないないではないないではないであります。

変わり、また新たに有用な機能を有するイオン交換体が得られることを見出して、本発明を提供するに至ったものである。即ち、本発明によれば、酸化剤を含有するイオン交換体中で酸化重合可能な単量体を重合させることを特徴とするイオン交換体の製造方法が提供される。

基が同時に存在する場合も含まれる。同時に存在 する場合は二種のイオン交換基が二層以上に亘っ て層状に存在する場合、任意に均一に存在する場 合のいづれでもよい。また、勝イオン交換器が存 在する層があり、陽イオン交換基と陰イオン交換 基が任意に分布する層があり、再び陽イオン交換 基が存在する層がある場合、或いは陰イオン交換 **遊を有する層が存在する層がある場合、或いはと** れの逆の場合など各種のイオン交換基の存在状態 によって各種のイオン交換体が形成されるが、と れら全ての形態のイオン交換体がそれぞれ本発明 の方法において有効に適用される。なお、上記し た陽イオン交換基および陰イオン交換基は、同一 種類の陽イオン交換基、陰イオン交換基を意味す るのでなく、例えばカルポン酸薬とスルホン酸基 といった異なった陽イオン交換盛であってもよい が、異種のものを用いたとき、特に有効である場 合が多い。また、上記した無機イオン交換体、有 機イオン交換体はそれぞれ単独のマトリックスの ものに限定されるものではなく、両者の複合体も 適に用いられる。

また、本第明に用いられるイオン交換体は、乾燥体は、乾燥体は、乾燥体の19分割にの1~15 また と から 19分割に の 19分割を 10 の 19の割を 10 の 19の

本発明においては、上記した如き各種のイオン 交換体を用いて、かつ後記する改化が酸化 重合可能な単量体を選択することにより、それぞ れ改良された有用なイオン交換体を記す。例えば、 来る。以下、その概略的な態様を記す。例えば、 (1) 陰イオン交換体に対して、例れれかの酸化的な また関イオン交換体に対して、内側とは また関イオン交換体に対して、大側にの のなとにより、それぞれイオン交換体に酸化 別か均一に含有され難い点を別用して、片側にの み酸化重合可能な単量体を容易に重合であるため、 非対称構造のイオン交換体を得るととが出来る。 (2) とれに対して、両性イオン交換体を用いる場 合には、陽イオンおよび陰イオンのいずれの酸化 剤も均一に含有されるために、酸化重合可能な単 量体を重合して均一構造のイオン交換体を容易に 得ることが出来る。(3) また、パイポーラー形の イオン交換膜を用いる場合には、片面だけに酸化 **重合可能な単量体を重合できるため、設重体の電** 導性層に絶縁性層とを交互に有する膜状物質を得 ることが出来る。(4) 架橋構造を有する炭化水業 系のイオン交換体を用いる場合には、酸化重合可 能な単畳体の含浸速度、含浸量がコントロールし 易いために、得られるイオン交換体の機械的強度 を保持し易い利点がある。特に、架橋構造と共に 補強材を有するイオン交換体を用いる場合には、 より機械的強度を有するイオン交換体を得るとと が出来る。

本発明において、イオン交換体中に存在させる 酸化剤としては、従来公知の酸化剤であれば特に 限定されない。例えば、 H_2O_2 , $(C_6H_5CO)_2O_2$ などの

過酸化物、 FoCLs, CuSO4, CuCL2, RuCLs などの金属 塩、Na2S2O8,Na2SO5,(NH4)2SO5 などのペルオク ソ酸(塩)、 NaCLO, NaBrO, NaCLO, などの酸素酸塩 などが挙げられる。即ち、三価の鉄イオン、二価 の銅イオン、三価のルテニウムイオンなどの荷置 が酸化還元によって変化する金属イオン、同様に 荷麗が酸化澄元によって変化する有機化合物ある いは金属錯体陽イオンなどの陽イオン類、また過 硫酸イオン、過塩素酸イオンなどの酸化性を有す る陰イオンが好適に用いられる。これら陽イオン 及び陰イオンは、酸化状態でイオン交換体の交換 盛とイオン交換しイオン交換体内に均一に分散す るので好適である。なお、イオン交換体の表層部 のみにおいて、本発明の敬化重合反応を実施した いときには、長鎖アルキル基を結合した過酸、或 いはナフタリン環のようなイオン交換体の細孔内 に容易に入り得ないような化合物に過酸基が結合 したようなものを用いることが出来る。

本発明において、用いられる酸化重合可能な単量体としては、例えばピロールおよびその誘導体

の種類、イオン交換体の種類によって変わり、一般に1分以上、72時間までの適当な時間を選定して行うことが出来る。

(発明の作用、効果)

本発明で得られるイオン交換体はイオンの透過性、特に同符号イオン間の選択透過性が変わり、一般に電荷の大きいイオン強,水和イオン半径の小さいイオン種の透過が阻止されるようになる。また、単最体の酸化重合の方法によっては、電子伝導性の機能が賦与されて、イオン交換膜がセンサーなどの新しい機能性物質に変わるととになる。以下に若干の具体的な例を示す。

(1) ステレン・ジピニルベンゼンで架器した陽イオン突換膜を塩化鉄の水溶液中に浸費して鉄イオン型にしたのち、これを充分に水洗し、ピロールを含む水溶液中に浸漬すると、ピロールは陽イオン交換すると同時に重合する。この場でして得られた膜を充分に水洗し、1規定の塩酸と0.5規定の食塩水で充分にコンディショニンクしてFe++を除去したのち、0.25規定の塩酸と

非対称構造のイオン交換体を得ることが出来る。 (2) とれに対して、両性イオン交換体を用いる場 合には、陽イオンおよび陰イオンのいずれの酸化 剤も均一に含有されるために、酸化重合可能な単 量体を重合して均一構造のイオン交換体を容易に 得ることが出来る。(3) また、バイポーラー形の イオン交換膜を用いる場合には、片面だけに酸化 重合可能な単量体を重合できるため、設重体の電 導性層に絶縁性層とを交互に有する膜状物質を得 ることが出来る。(4) 架橋構造を有する炭化水素 系のイオン交換体を用いる場合には、酸化重合可 能な単盤体の含茂速度、含浸量がコントロールし 易いために、得られるイオン交換体の機械的強度 を保持し易い利点がある。特に、架橋構造と共に 補強材を有するイオン交換体を用いる場合には、 より機械的強度を有するイオン交換体を得るとと が出来る。

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本発明において、用いられる酸化重合可能な単量体としては、例えばピロールおよびその誘導体

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本発明で得られるイオン交換体はイオンの透過性、特に同符号イオン間の選択透過性が変わり、一般に電荷の大きいイオン種、水和イオン半径の小さいイオン種の透過が阻止されるようになる。また、単量体の酸化重合の方法によっては、電子伝導性の機能が賦与されて、イオン交換膜がセンサーなどの新しい機能性物質に変わることになる。以下に若干の具体的な例を示す。

(1) ステレン・ジビニルベンセンで架橋した陽イオン交換膜を塩化鉄の水溶液中に受徴して鉄イオン型にしたのち、これを充分に水洗し、ピロールを含む水溶液中に浸漬すると、ピロールは陽イオン交換すると同時に重合する。この塩間にで、1 規定の塩酸と 0.5 規定の食塩水で充分にコンディショニングしてFe++を除去したのち、0.25 規定の塩酸と

例に於いても同様にした。

実施例2

この強イオン交換膜を過硫酸アンモニウムの10 5水溶液中に浸漬して過硫酸イオン型にイオン交 換膜を変換した後、これを550アニリンを分散 した水溶液中に浸漬し室温で8時間提拌した。 膜 状物は炭黄色から黒変した。

これをとり出して、1規定の塩酸と 0.5 規定の アンモニャ水でコンディショニングした後、0.25

ウ化メチルからたる浴に浸液してピリジン環をアルキル化処理した。このようにして得た両性イオン交換容量は 0.81ミリ当量/ F 乾燥膜で、陰イオン交換容量は 1.12ミリ当量/ F 乾燥膜であった。この両性イオン交換膜を用いて次の二つの処理を行った。

- (a) 三塩化ルテニウムの水溶液中に膜を浸潤して膜をルテニウムイオン型に変換し、次いで水洗乾燥した後、28のピロール水溶液中に浸渍したところ、両性イオン交換膜中にピロールが含度重合した。水洗、メタノール洗滌後、減圧乾燥して、電導度を測定したところ電気抵抗25m-cm² であった。
- (b) 過硫酸ソーダの5 多水溶液中に浸液して過硫酸イオン型にしたのち、アニリンの1 多水溶液中に浸漉して重合させ、これを水洗、メタノール洗涤して後、減圧乾燥したところ、19 Ω- cm² の電導度を示した。

尚、いづれの譲る 0.2 5 規定の塩酸と 0.2 5 規定の 食塩の 1 : 1 の混合溶液の電気透析を実施したと 規定の芒硝と 0.2 5 規定の食塩との 1 : 1 の混合溶液を実施例 1 と 同様に 電気透析して、 SO₄ -- と CA の膜透過性を比較した。その結果、 アニリンを含浸面合していない膜は CA 1 当量の 透過に対して 0.3 当量の SO₄ -- が透過したが、 アニリンを 膜内で重合した 膜では SO₄ -- が 0.01 当量しか 膜透過しなかった。

尚、上記の電気透析したあとのアニリンを含浸 重合した除イオン交換膜について、減圧乾燥した のち、電導度の測定をしたところ電気抵抗12Ω-cm² であった。

爽施例3

スチレン,4-ビニルピリジンおよびジビニルベンゼンの混合物にポリ塩化ビニルの徴粉末を加たて得たペースト状混合物にペンソイルパーオキサイドを加えて、これをポリプロピレン製の不振 布に塗布し、加熱して重合し腹状物とした。これを 975硫酸に浸漬してゆるやかに3日間かけてスルホン化処理した。次いで、これを 一旦 0.1 規定の苛性ソーダ中に浸漬したあと、ヘキサンとヨ

ころ、ピロールを含浸重合した膜は電流効率95 まで、Na⁺1当量に対して水素イオン21当量を 膜透過した。また、ポリアニリンが含浸重合した 膜は電流効率97%で、Na⁺1当量に対して水素 イオン30当量を透過した。

突施例4

交換させた。次いで、これをピロールの2 %のアセトニトリル溶液中に浸漉したところ、主にスルホン酸歯が存在する領域にピロールは含浸し酸化 重合した。

奥施例 5

まのアニリンのエタノール溶液に浸渍した。 1 0 時間後、陰イオン交換基の部分でアニリンは重合していた。この部分は電導性が認められた。

次いて、この膜を第二塩化鉄の5 5 水溶液中に 浸漬し、陽イオン交換基の部分に鉄イオンをイオ ン交換し、水洗後ピロールの2 5 エタノール溶液 中に浸渍したところ、陽イオン交換基が存在する 部分でピロールが重合し、水洗、減圧乾燥後の電 導度を測定したところ、この面にも電導度が認め 5れた。

奥施例7

市販の陽イオン交換樹脂、陰イオン交換樹脂及び両性イオン交換樹脂にそれぞれ次の処理をした。

- (a) スルホン酸型の陽イオン交換樹脂を第二塩化 鉄水溶液に平衡にしたのち、ピロールの10% 水溶液中に浸液して放避したところ、やや褐色 の陽イオン交換樹脂は黒色となり重合した。
- (b) 第四級アンモニウム塩基型の陰イオン交換基 を有する樹脂を過硫酸アンモニウムの10%水 溶液中に浸渍した後、アニリンのエタノール溶

のみスルホン酸基を導入した。 次いで、これを三 塩化ルテニウムの5 5 x 水溶液中に浸渍してルテニ ウムイオン型としたのち、ピロールの10 5 x た ルアルコール溶液中に16時間浸漉したところ、 双ルホン酸基の部分にのみピロールが含浸した。 工合した。これを水洗、メタノール洗滌、面の 燥して選挙を測定したところ、 膜の片面のみこ 次元方向に導電性が認められ、 裏面は絶縁体となっていた。

寒焰例6

液に浸漬して放置したところ、 黒色の球状樹脂 となった。

(c) 第四級アンモニウム塩基とスルホン酸基を有する球状の両性イオン交換樹脂を第二塩化鉄の5%水溶液中に浸液した後、ピロールの水溶液中に浸液したところ、同様に球状樹脂は黑色となり、ピロールが酸化重合した。

上記した a), b), c) の樹脂のいずれも、減圧 乾燥後に測定の結果、電導性が認められた。 実施例 8

ポリクロロメチルスチレンをノメルから押出し 成型して質状のポリマーを得た。とれを塩化アル ミニウムの二硫化炭素溶液と接触させて、フリー アルフラフト酸によって架橋反応を形成させた。 次いで、これをトリメチルアミン・水およびで 次ンの混合溶液に浸漬してアミグル型して突 級アンモニウム塩基を有する管状酸イオン交換体 とした。これを過硫酸アンモニウム水溶液中で 後にして、ピロールの水溶液中に浸潤した。

上記した管状物の電気伝導度を測定したところ、

ピロールを重合しないものは電導度は認められなかったが、ピロールを重合したものは電導度が認められた。

突施例 9

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English translation of JP 63-023933A

- Title of the Invention Process for Producing Ion Exchanger
- 2. What is Claimed is:
- 1) A process for producing an ion exchanger, characterized by polymerizing an oxidation-polymerizable monomer in an ion exchanger which contains an oxidizer.
- 3. Detailed Description of the Invention (Industrial Applicability)

The present invention relates to a process for producing an ion exchanger polymerizing an oxidation-polymerizable monomer in an ion exchanger which contains an oxidizer.

(Prior Art and Problem)

Various methods hitherto have been tried in order to improve or lower ion-selective permeability which is one of the functions of ion-exchange membranes, or to change selective permeability between ions of the same polarity. Further, various trials have been made to impart a new function to ion exchange membranes: that is, a polymerizable vinyl monomer is incorporated and polymerized into a cation or anion ion exchange membrane to thereby decrease the amount of a diffusing and permeating salt, to improve a transport number or to decrease the leakage amount of an acid or a base. However, in most of these methods, the vinyl monomers are polymerized in the membranes, so that the ion exchange membranes are swollen by these vinyl monomers, which may lead to a decrease in

the mechanical strengths of the membranes. It is also reported that condensation type monomers are condensed in ion exchange membranes. However, in most cases, heat treatments are needed to complete the condensation reactions, which may degrade the performance of the membranes.

(Means for Solving the Problem)

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Under such a situation, the present inventors have made various trials so as to impart new functions to ion exchanges by forming matrices of different polymers in the matrices of conventional ion exchangers to thereby change the features of the ion exchangers. As a result, they have found that heterocyclic compounds such as pyrrole and its derivatives, thiophene and its derivatives, etc., which show good affinity to the ion exchangers, can be polymerized in the membranes of the ion exchangers with relative ease by oxidation reaction, to thereby change the features of the ion exchangers, and to impart new and useful functions to the ion exchangers. The present invention is accomplished based on this finding. According to the present invention, there is provided a process for producing an ion exchanger, characterized by polymerizing an oxidation-polymerizable monomer in an ion exchanger which contains an oxidizer.

Examples of the ion exchanger to be suitably used in the present invention include not only organic ion exchangers but also inorganic ion exchangers such as zirconium phosphate, and ion exchangers obtained by molding these ion exchangers with the use of appropriate organic or inorganic binders under pressure and heating. As the organic ion exchangers, there are preferably used

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polymerization type ion exchangers, so-called styrene-divinylbenzene-based copolymers to which ion exchange groups are bound, or condensation type ion exchangers to which cation exchange groups and/or anion exchange groups are bound. As such ion exchangers, conventionally known homogeneous or heterogeneous ion exchangers also can be used. Also, hydrocarbons, carbon fluorides and perfluorocarbons can be preferably used as base materials of the ion exchangers, independently of the kinds thereof.

There is no limit in selection of the ion exchanger to be used in the present invention, in so far as generally 0.1 to 15 milli-equivalent of ion exchange groups are bound per 1 g of the dried ion exchanger. Preferable examples of the ion exchange group include the known cation exchange groups such as sulfonic acid, carboxylic acid, phosphoric acid, phosphorous acid, sulfonate, phenolic hydroxyl group, thiol group, tertiary perfluoroalcohol, etc.; and anion exchange groups such as primary, secondary and tertiary amines; and onium bases such as quaternary ammonium, tertiary sulfonium, quaternary phosphonium, cobaltiranium, etc.

As the above-described ion exchanger, one suitable for end use is selected from various ion exchangers such as an ion exchanger in which ion exchange groups are uniformly dispersed on a base material, an ion exchanger in which ion exchange groups are present collectively on one side, an ion exchanger which has a concentration gradient of ion exchange groups, etc. Again, such ion exchangers may have cation exchange groups alone or anion exchange groups alone, or concurrently may have both kinds of ion exchange groups. When an ion exchanger concurrently has both kinds of ion

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exchange groups, the two kinds of ion exchange groups may be present in the form of two or more layers, or may be uniformly present in an optional form. There can be formed a variety of ion exchangers, according to the states of ion exchange groups present therein; for example, there is an ion exchanger which has a layer having cation exchange groups therein, a layer having cation exchange groups and anion exchange groups optionally distributed therein, and a layer having cation exchange groups therein or a layer having anion exchange groups therein; or an ion exchanger which has a structure reverse to the above structure. process of the present invention can be effectively applied to all of these forms of ion exchangers. In this regard, the above-described cation exchange groups and anion exchange groups do not mean cation exchange groups and anion exchange groups of the same kinds but may be cation exchange groups and anion exchange groups of different kinds: that is, they may be different cation exchange groups, for example, carboxylic acid groups and sulfonic In many cases, the use of different kinds of acid groups. ion exchange groups is particularly effective. In addition, each of the above-described inorganic ion exchangers and organic ion exchangers does not necessarily have a single matrix, and composites of both of inorganic and organic ion exchangers can be preferably used. In concrete, fine particles of an inorganic ion exchanger may be molded with a thermoplastic organic ion exchanger and formed into an appropriate shape; or otherwise, an ion exchanger with a desired shape may be produced by dispersing an inorganic ion exchanger in a solution of a polymeric electrolyte or an inert polymer in an appropriate solvent, to thereby

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splash the solvent. The ion exchangers to be used in the present invention may be in the forms of not only membranes but also particles, powder, fibers, tubes, etc.

In the present invention, the variety of the ion exchangers described above are used to provide improved and useful ion exchangers, by selecting oxidizers and oxidation-polymerizable monomers described below.

Hereinafter, schematic embodiments thereof are described.

- (1) An ion exchanger having an asymmetric structure can be provided by using a cationic oxidizer relative to an anion exchanger, or an anionic oxidizer relative to a cation exchanger, since it is hard to uniformly contain each of the oxidizers in each of the ion exchangers so that an oxidation-polymerizable monomer can be easily polymerized on one side alone of the ion exchanger.
- (2) An ion exchanger having a uniform structure can be provided by using a dipolar ion exchanger, since any of a cationic oxidizer and an anionic oxidizer can be uniformly contained in the ion exchanger to polymerize an oxidation-polymerizable monomer.
- (3) A membrane-like material having conductive layers of a polymer and insulating layers alternately can be provided by using a bipolar type ion exchange membrane, since an oxidation-polymerizable monomer can be polymerized in only one side thereof.
- (4) An ion exchanger which is easy to maintain its mechanical strength can be provided by using a hydrocarbon type ion exchanger having a crosslinked structure, since the impregnation rate and the impregnated amount of an oxidation-polymerizable monomer can be easily controlled. In particular, an ion exchanger having a higher mechanical

strength can be provided by using an ion exchanger which has a crosslinked structure and contains a reinforcing material.

In the present invention, the oxidizer to be contained in the ion exchanger may be any of the known oxidizers, and is not particularly limited. Examples of such oxidizers include peroxides such as H_2O_2 and $(C_6H_5CO)_2O_2$; metal salts such as FeCl₃, CuSO₄, CuCl₂ and RuCl₃; peroxoacids (salts) such as $Na_2S_2O_8$, Na_2SO_5 and $(NH_4)_2SO_5$; and salts with oxyacids such as NaClo, NaBro and NaClo3. In other words, there are preferably used metal ions of which the charges are changed by oxidation reduction, such as trivalent iron ions, bivalent copper ions and trivalent ruthenium ions; organic compounds of which the charges are changed by oxidation reduction; cations such as metal complex cations; and anions having oxidizing property, such as persulfate ions and perchlorate ions. These cations and anions are preferable, since such cations and anions in oxidized states are exchanged with the exchange groups of the ion exchanger and thus are uniformly dispersed in the ion To cause the oxidation polymerization of the present invention only in the surface layer of the ion exchanger, there can be used, as the oxidizer, a peracid to which long-chain alkyl groups are bound, or a compound such as a naphthalene ring which is hard to enter the pores of the ion exchanger and which has peracid groups bound thereto.

In the present invention, examples of the oxidation-polymerizable monomer include pyrrole and its derivatives such as N-methylpyrrole and 2-ethylpyrrole; thiophene and its derivatives; isothianaphthene and its derivatives; and

indole, azulene, furan, aniline, phenol, benzene and naphthalene, and their derivatives. In particular, heterocyclic compounds such as pyrrole, indole, azulene, thiophene, furan, and their derivatives are preferable, because they show sufficient affinity to ion exchangers and are easily oxidation-polymerized to the ion exchangers.

The method of oxidation-polymerization to be employed in the present invention is not limited. For example, an ion exchanger containing an oxidizer is immersed in a solution or a dispersion of an oxidation-polymerizable monomer in an organic solvent such acetonitrile or ethyl alcohol, or an inorganic solvent, for example, water. immersion is carried out under cooling where the solvent is not frozen, or under heating where the solvent is not In the polymerization, the concentration of the monomer is not limited, and it is from 0.01% to a concentration for a saturated solution of the monomer. The polymerization may be carried out as suspension polymerization. The polymerization time varies depending on the type of the monomer and the type of the ion The polymerization time is appropriately selected generally within a range of from one minutes to 72 hours.

(Operation and Effect of the Invention)

An ion exchanger obtainable in the present invention is variable in ion permeability, particularly selective permeability of ions of the same polarity, and generally inhibits permeation of ion species with large charges and ion species with small radii of hydration ions. Again, depending on the oxidation-polymerization method for the monomer, it is possible to impart an electron conductive

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function to an ion exchange membrane, so that the ion exchange membrane can be used as a new functional material such as a sensor.

Some of concrete examples of such a case will be described below.

- (1) A cation exchange membrane crosslinked with styrene-divinylbenzene was immersed in an aqueous solution of iron chloride so that the membrane could be of iron ion type. After that, the membrane was sufficiently rinsed with water and was then immersed in an aqueous solution containing pyrrole so that the pyrrole was exchanged with cations and was simultaneously polymerized. The resultant membrane was sufficiently rinsed with water and was sufficiently conditioned with 1N hydrochloric acid and 0.5N brine to remove Fe⁺⁺, and was then used for electrodialysis of a solution which contains 0.25N hydrochloric acid and 0.25N salt, so that hydrogen ions were allowed to selectively permeate the membrane.
- (2) The membrane prepared in the step (1) was dried under reduced pressure, and the electric conductivity thereof was measured. As a result, the membrane showed an electric resistance of 1 k Ω -cm 2 or lower. On the other hand, a membrane to which the above-described pyrrole was not polymerized had an electric resistance of 20 M Ω -cm 2 or higher.
- (3) An anion exchange resin having pyridinium bases as anion exchange groups was equilibrated in an ammonium persulfate solution to be of persulfate ion type, and was then immersed in an aqueous solution of pyrrole, so that the pyrrole was selectively adsorbed onto the anion exchange membrane for ion exchange and was polymerized

thereto. The pale yellowish globular resin was turned black. The resultant polymer was not eluted even when the globular resin was repeatedly rinsed with an acid and an alkali.

- (4) A tubular ion exchanger having benzyltrimethylammonium ions as anion exchange groups was equilibrated in an aqueous ammonium persulfate solution to be of persulfate ion type, and was then immersed in an aqueous solution of aniline, so that the aniline was incorporated and polymerized into the anion exchanger. The pale yellowish tubular anion exchanger was turned black. The electric conductivity of the anion exchanger was measured. As a result, it showed an electric resistance of 100 Ω -cm² or lower. On the other hand, an anion exchanger which was not impregnated with aniline showed an electric resistance of 20 M Ω -cm² or higher.
- (5) A pyridinium base type membrane-like anion exchanger was immersed in an aqueous solution of ammonium persulfate so that anion exchange groups were exchanged with persulfate ions. After that, aniline was added to the solution to be polymerized therein. As a result, the aniline was polymerized in a liquid phase to be turned into black polyaniline and concurrently to be incorporated and polymerized into the membrane-like material. The membrane-like material was removed, and the selective permeability thereof to sulfate ions and chlorine ions was measured. When polyaniline was not present in the membrane-like material, 0.3 equivalent of sulfate ions permeated the membrane-like material, when one equivalent of chlorine ions permeated the same material. On the other hand, the membrane-like material impregnated with the polyaniline

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allowed permeation of 0.01 equivalent of sulfate ions. (Examples)

The present invention is described in more detail by way of Examples thereof, which however should not be construed as limiting the scope of the present invention in any way.

Example 1

A dry cation exchange membrane $(7.0 \times 7.0 \text{ cm}^2)$ with an ion exchange capacity of 2.3 milli-equivalent/g, which had sulfonic acid groups bound thereto, was immersed in a 5% ferric chloride aqueous solution and equilibrated therein to be of ferric ion type. Sequentially, the ferric ion type membrane was immersed in a 2% pyrrole aqueous solution (500 cc) and was stirred therein. The membrane was left to stand therein for 16 hours and was then removed. membrane was rinsed with water and washed with ethanol, and was then immersed in 1N hydrochloric acid, while hydrochloric acid being repeatedly exchanged. Absorption of the iron was observed by means of fluorescent X-ray, and almost no iron was found to be removed from the membrane.

The membrane thus obtained was built in an acrylic cell partitioned into two chambers with inner volumes of 120 cc, and the two chambers were filled with a 0.25N NaCl solution and a 0.25N CaCl₂ solution, respectively. membrane had been sufficiently equilibrated in the 0.25N NaCl solution and the 0.25N CaCl2 solution before it was built in the cell with the two chambers. A silver electrode and a silver chloride electrode were attached to both the chambers of the cell, respectively, to carry out electrodialysis through the electrodes at a current density of 1 A/dm2. The effective current-carrying area was 0.1

dm². After 2 hours of current-carrying, the amount of cations which had permeated the membrane was determined. As a result, the current efficiency was 97%, and the amount of Ca²⁺ which had permeated the membrane was 0.2 equivalent, when one equivalent of Na⁺ had permeated the membrane.

On the other hand, a conventional sulfonic acid type cation exchange membrane which had no pyrrole incorporated and polymerized thereinto was used for comparison. This membrane was used for electrodialysis and measurement under the same conditions. As a result, the current efficiency was 98%, and the amount of Ca²⁺ which had permeated the membrane was 2.1 equivalent, when one equivalent of Na⁺ had permeated the membrane.

In the meantime, the former membrane which had pyrrole incorporated and polymerized thereinto and which had been used for the above electrodialysis was removed from the cell, and was equilibrated in 1N hydrochloric acid and was then dried under reduced pressure. After that, the electric conductivity of the membrane was measured. As a result, the electric resistance of the membrane was 28 Ω -cm². On the other hand, the latter cation exchange membrane which had no pyrrole incorporated and polymerized thereinto showed an electric resistance of 20 $M\Omega$ -cm² or higher under the same conditions.

In this connection, the cation exchange membranes used were made from a styrene-divinylbenzene copolymer, and the content of divinylbenzene was 5%. The measurement of electric conductivity was made on the membrane with a width of 1 cm on which silver paste was applied at every 1 cm interval and dried, using a conductivity meter, and a conversion was made from the thickness of the membrane to

calculate a specific conductivity. The measurements in the following Examples were made in the same manner.

Example 2

A viscous paste mixture was prepared by admixing a mixture of ethylene, divinylbenzene and 4-vinylpyridine with fine particles of polyvinyl chloride, followed by benzoyl peroxide as a polymerization initiator. The paste mixture was applied to a polyvinyl chloride fabric, and both sides of the fabric were covered with cellophane sheets. Heat polymerization was allowed to take place at 70°C under a nitrogen atmosphere to obtain a polymeric membrane. This membrane was immersed in an alkylating bath of a solution mixture of hexane and methyl iodide, at 25°C for 24 hours, to obtain an anion exchange membrane which had quaternary ammonium bases as anion exchange groups.

This anion exchange membrane was immersed in an aqueous solution of 10% ammonium persulfate to thereby convert the type of the membrane to persulfate ion type. Then, this membrane was immersed in an aqueous dispersion of 5% aniline and was stirred at room temperature for 8 hours. The pale yellowish membrane was turned black.

The membrane was removed and was conditioned with 1N hydrochloric acid and a 0.5N aqueous ammonia solution. After that, this membrane was used for electrodialysis of a solution mixture of 0.25N mirabilite and 0.25N sodium chloride in the ratio of 1 : 1 in the same manner as in Example 1, and the permeabilities of this membrane to SO₄—and Cl—were compared. As a result, a membrane which had no aniline incorporated and polymerized thereinto allowed permeation of 0.3 equivalent of SO₄—, relative to

permeation of one equivalent of Cl^- . In contrast, the membrane which had aniline incorporated and polymerized thereinto allowed permeation of only 0.01 equivalent of SO_4^{--} .

The anion exchange membrane which had aniline incorporated and polymerized thereinto and which had been used for the above-described electrodialysis was dried under reduced pressure. Then, the electric conductivity of the membrane was measured. As a result, the membrane showed an electric resistance of 12 Ω -cm².

Example 3

A paste mixture was prepared by admixing a mixture of styrene, 4-vinylpyridine and divinylbenzene with polyvinyl chloride fine particles, followed by benzoyl peroxide. This paste mixture was applied to a polypropylene non-woven fabric and was polymerized into the fabric under heating. Thus, a membrane-like material was obtained. This material was immersed in 97% sulfuric acid so as to be gently sulfonated over 3 days. This material was once immersed in 0.1N caustic soda and was then immersed in a bath of hexane and methyl iodide to thereby alkylate the pyridine rings. The cation exchange capacity of a bipolar ion exchange membrane thus obtained was 0.81 milli-equivalent per 1 g of the dried membrane; and the anion exchange capacity thereof was 1.12 milli-equivalent per 1 g of the dried membrane. This bipolar ion exchange membrane was subjected to the following two treatments.

(a) The membrane was immersed in an aqueous solution of ruthenium trichloride to convert the type of membrane to a ruthenium ion type, and then, the membrane was rinsed with

water and dried. After that, the membrane was immersed in an aqueous solution of 2% pyrrole, so that the bipolar ion exchange membrane had pyrrole incorporated and polymerized thereinto. This membrane was rinsed with water and washed with methanol and was then dried under reduced pressure. The electric conductivity of the dried membrane was measured. As a result, the membrane showed an electric resistance of 25 Ω -cm².

(b) The membrane was immersed in an aqueous solution of 5% sodium persulfate to convert the type of membrane to a persulfate ion type and was then immersed in an aqueous solution of 1% aniline to polymerize the aninilne under stirring. The membrane was rinsed with water and washed with methanol and was then dried under reduced pressure. This membrane showed an electric conductivity of $19~\Omega\text{-cm}^2$.

Either of the membranes was used for electrodialysis of a solution mixture of 0.25N hydrochloric acid and 0.25N sodium chloride in the ratio of 1:1. As a result, the membrane which had pyrrole incorporated and polymerized thereinto showed a current efficiency of 95% and allowed permeation of 21 equivalent of hydrogen ions relative to permeation of one equivalent of Na⁺. The membrane which had polyaniline incorporated and polymerized thereinto showed a current efficiency of 97% and allowed permeation of 30 equivalent of hydrogen ions relative to permeation of one equivalent of Na⁺.

Example 4

A block copolymer was synthesized by living anion polymerization of styrene, butadiene and N,N'-dimethyl-vinylbenzylamine. This block copolymer was cast onto a

flat plate to form a film. This film was observed with an electron microscope and was found to have a phaseseparation structure. That is, the film had a styrene region, a butadiene region and a N,N'-dimethylvinylbenzylamine region which were separated from one another. This film was sulfonated with sulfuric acid to introduce sulfonic acid groups thereinto. Then, the film was rinsed with methanol to substitute the sulfonic acid groups, and was then treated with methyl iodide to thereby introduce quaternary ammonium bases thereinto. Thus, there is obtained a membrane in which a cation exchange group region, a neutral region and an anion exchange group region were distributed in a mosaic pattern. This membrane was immersed in an aqueous solution of iron trichloride to thereby exchange iron ions with cation exchange groups. Next, this membrane was immersed in a solution of 2% pyrrole in acetonitrile. As a result, the pyrrole was incorporated mainly in the region having sulfonic acid groups therein and was oxidation-polymerized therein.

The resultant membrane was used to measure the permeability of sodium chloride and saccharose. The region of the membrane which had no pyrrole incorporated and polymerized thereinto showed a saccharose permeability of 1/81 in comparison with sodium chloride. The region of the membrane which had pyrrole incorporated and polymerized thereinto showed a decreased saccharose permeability of 1/210. Another membrane made in the same manner was rinsed with water and washed with methanol and was then dried under reduced pressure. The electric conductivity of the resultant membrane was measured. As a result, the membrane showed electric conductivity in the thickness direction but

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showed quite none in the two-dimensional direction. That is, the membrane was found to be an anisotropic conductive membrane.

Example 5

A viscous paste mixture was prepared by admixing a mixture of styrene and divinylbenzene with polyethylene fine particles. This paste mixture was applied to a polypropylene fabric. After that, only one side of the fabric was sulfonated with conc. sulfuric acid, using a reaction device capable of reacting only one side of the Thus, the fabric had sulfonic acid groups introduced into its only one side. Then, this fabric was immersed in an aqueous solution of 5% ruthenium trichloride to convert the type of the fabric to a ruthenium ion type. Then, the fabric was immersed in a solution of 10% pyrrole in ethyl alcohol for 16 hours, so that the pyrrole was incorporated and oxidation-polymerized into only the sulfonic acid group portion. The fabric was rinsed with water and washed with methanol and was then dried under reduced pressure. The electric conductivity of the fabric was measured. As a result, the fabric showed electric conductivity in the two-dimensional direction only at its one side, and the reverse side thereof was found to be insulating.

Example 6

The membrane sulfonated at its one side, obtained in Example 5, was again set in the reaction device capable of reacting only one side of the membrane, so that the unreacted side of the membrane was brought into contact

with a solution of tin tetrachloride and carbon tetrachloride in chloromethyl ether to thereby introduce chloromethyl groups into the one side of the membrane. Then, this membrane was immersed in a solution of trimethyamine in water and acetone to aminate the membrane. Thus, there was obtained a membrane which had sulfonic acid groups at its one side and had quaternary ammonium bases at its reverse side. This membrane was immersed in an aqueous solution of 5% sodium persulfate to convert the anion exchange group portion of the membrane into a persulfate ion type portion. This membrane was then immersed in a solution of 5% aniline in ethanol. After 10 hours had passed, the anililne was polymerized in the anion exchange This portion of the group portion of the membrane. membrane showed electric conductivity.

Next, this membrane was immersed in an aqueous solution of 5% ferric chloride, so that the cation exchange group portion of the membrane was exchanged with iron ions. The membrane was rinsed with water and was then immersed in a solution of 2% pyrrole in ethanol, so that the pyrrole was polymerized at the portion having cation exchange groups therein. This membrane was rinsed with water and dried under reduced pressure. The electric conductivity of the resultant membrane was measured. As a result, this side of the membrane also showed electric conductivity.

Example 7

Commercially available cation exchange resin, anion exchange resin and bipolar ion exchange resin were treated as follows, respectively.

(a) A sulfonic acid type cation exchange resin was

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equilibrated in an aqueous solution of ferric chloride and was then immersed in an aqueous solution of 10% pyrrole and was left to stand alone. As a result, the slightly brownish cation exchange resin was turned black, and the pyrrole was found to be polymerized.

- (b) A resin containing quaternary ammonium base type anion exchange groups was immersed in an aqueous solution of 10% ammonium persulfate and was then immersed in a solution of aniline in ethanol and was left to stand alone. As a result, the resin was formed into a black globular resin material.
- (c) A globular bipolar ion exchange resin material which contained quaternary ammonium bases and sulfonic acid groups was immersed in an aqueous solution of 5% ferric chloride, and was then immersed in an aqueous solution of pyrrole. As a result, the globular resin material was turned black, and the pyrrole was found to be oxidationpolymerized.

Any of the above-described resins a), b) and c) was dried under reduced pressure and measured with respect to electric conductivity. As a result, any of them showed electric conductivity.

Example 8

A tubular polymer material was obtained by extrusionmolding polychloromethylstyrene via a nozzle. The tubular polymer material was brought into contact with a solution of aluminum chloride in carbon disulfide to cause a crosslinking reaction in the presence of Friedel-Crafts The tubular polymer material was then immersed in a solution mixture of trimethylamine, water and acetone to be

aminated. Thus, a tubular anion exchanger containing quaternary ammonium bases was obtained. This tubular anion exchanger was equilibrated in an aqueous solution of ammonium persulfate and was then immersed in an aqueous solution of pyrrole.

The electric conductivity of the tubular anion exchanger was measured. As a result, a tubular anion exchanger having no pyrrole polymerized thereto showed no electric conductivity. On the other hand, the tubular anion exchanger having pyrrole polymerized thereto showed electric conductivity.

Example 9

A styrene-divinylbenzene copolymer was sulfonated to obtain fine particles of a cation exchange resin. cation exchange resin fine particles were mixed with polyethylene, and the mixture was extruded from a nozzle in the same manner as in Example 8, to obtain a tubular cation This tubular cation exchanger was once boiled in pure water and was then immersed in an aqueous solution of iron trichloride to thereby convert the type of the exchanger to an iron type one. This exchanger was immersed in an aqueous solution of 2% thiophene and was heated to 50°C and was then left to stand alone for 24 hours. After that, the tubular ion exchanger was removed and rinsed with water and was then dried under reduced pressure. electric conductivity of the dried tubular ion exchanger was measured. As a result, the tubular ion exchanger showed electric conductivity.